

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 16, 2004 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 10 has been amended as supported by, for example, Fig. 7 of the present specification. Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Title

Minor editorial revisions have been made to the title as seen in the Amendments to the Title section of this paper.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

In the Office Action, claims 10 and 12-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action states that it is unclear where the specification contains a written description of the limitation "scanning the light beam in a manner such that the light spot partially overlaps the light spot adjacent thereto in a main scanning direction that is a circumferential direction of the optical recording medium and the light spot adjacent thereto in a subsidiary scanning direction that is a radial direction of the optical recording medium", as recited in claim 10. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, claim 10 has been amended for clarification purposes. In claim 10, "a main scanning direction that is a circumferential direction of the optical recording medium" has been changed to "a tangential direction of the optical recording medium" and "a subsidiary scanning direction that is a radial direction of the optical recording medium" has been changed to "a radial direction of the optical recording medium". This is fully supported by Fig. 7 and the accompanying description. The changes to claim 10 are intended to be clarifying only and are not intended to narrow the scope of the claim in any manner. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 12-18.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action, claims 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oshima et al (US 6,266,299). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 10 recites, among other things, a recording method for an optical recording medium comprising recording the medium identification information in an information layer of a subsidiary information area by scanning the light beam in a manner such that the light spot partially overlaps the light spot adjacent thereto in a tangential direction of the optical recording medium and the light spot adjacent thereto in a radial direction of the optical recording medium.

Unlike the invention of claim 10, Oshima fails to disclose or suggest a method of recording the medium identification information by scanning the light beam in a manner such that the light spot partially overlaps the light spot adjacent thereto in a tangential direction of the optical recording medium and the light adjacent thereto in a radial direction of the optical recording medium. Oshima, according to Figures 15 to 19 and 38A to 39G, illustrates a method for recording one light spot by one light beam irradiation and not in a manner such that the light spot partially overlaps the light spot adjacent thereto.

An advantage provided by the recording method featured in the invention of claim 10 is the effect of recording the medium identification information without causing a defect in the optical recording medium, an advantage not achieved by the recording method disclosed in Oshima.

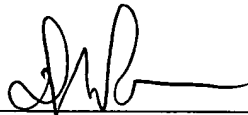
Therefore, Oshima fails to teach or suggest all of the features of claim 10 and for at least this reason, claim 10 is believed to be patentable over Oshima. Claims 12-18 and 29 depend from claim 10 and are believed to be patentable over Oshima for at least the same reasons specified with respect to claim 10.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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